

Remarks:

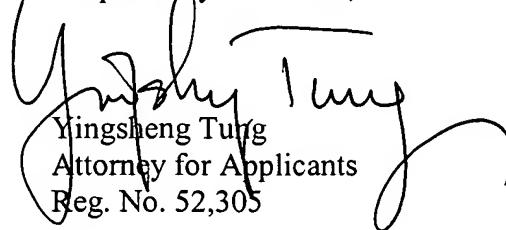
Applicants thank Examiner Maldonado for the careful examination of the application and the clear explanation of the rejections. Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections are improper for the reason set forth below:

Claims 1, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Exposito et al. (U.S. 6,087,202) in view of Glenn et al. (U.S. 2002/0168798 A1). Claims 2, 3, and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Exposito et al. (U.S. 6,087,202) in view of Glenn et al. (U.S. 2002/0168798 A1) and further in view of Glenn et al. (U.S. 6,309,943 B1). Claims 6 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Exposito et al. (U.S. 6,087,202) in view of Glenn et al. (U.S. 2002/0168798 A1) and further in view of Tani et al. (U.S. 6,410,363 B1). Claim 13 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Exposito et al. (U.S. 6,087,202) in view of Glenn et al. (U.S. 2002/0168798 A1) and further in view of Akram et al. (U.S. 6,423,616 B2).

However, applicants respectfully submit that the Glenn et al. (U.S. 2002/0168798 A1) reference is not prior art. Applicants have claimed benefit of provisional application 60/257,939, which was filed on December 21, 2000. Glenn's U.S. filing date is May 17, 2002. Therefore applicants respectfully submit that the rejections of claims 1-13 are improper.

Applicants respectfully request that the rejections be withdrawn, the application be further examined and the claims pass to issuance.

Respectfully submitted,


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